



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: BENEKE et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/653,558  
FILED: September 2, 2003  
FOR: Plug-in Connector Module  
DOCKET: HARTING P202-14

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. Where available, English language counterparts and/or abstracts are being provided for Examiner's convenience. These references were cited in the German Search Report dated May 21, 2003 of the underlying German patent application. Enclosed is a copy of the German Search Report. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent

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application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the foreign examiner's comments submitted therewith.

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to issuance of the first action on the merits. Therefore, we believe there are no fees involved with this Information Disclosure Statement. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 24, 2003 at Tucson, Arizona.

By:

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

HARTING P202-14

Application Number

10/653,558

Applicant(s)

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Filing Date

September 2, 2003

Group Art Unit

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,045,390	4.4.00	METZ et al.	439	405	
		6,004,162	12.21.99	HARTING et al.	439	701	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		DE 197 12 630	3.26.97	GERMANY	H01R	13/502		
		DE 197 07 120	2.22.97	GERMANY	H01R	13/514		
		DE 296 21 436	12.10.96	GERMANY	H01R	13/658		
		CH 692 436	12.22.97	SWEDEN	H01R	013/66		
		GB 2 315 615	2.4.98	GREAT BRITAN	H01R	13/518		

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and no considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.